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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/965,548	09/27/2001	David S. Parkman	7784-000309	3883

27572 7590 01/04/2005

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EXAMINER	
SCUDERI, PHILIP S	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2153	

DATE MAILED: 01/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Offic Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/965,548	PARKMAN, DAVID S.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Philip S. Scuderi	2153	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period f r Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *27 September 2001*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-11* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-11* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *27 September 2001* is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☒ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings are objected to because reference numbers 28 and 14 in figures 1 and 2 respectively are difficult to read, and because figure 4 is missing reference number 10. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 2, 4, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 2 and 4 recite the limitation "the second connector interface port" in lines 3 and 2-3 respectively. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims.

Claim 7 recites the limitation "the wireless network" in lines 3, 5, and 10. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 7 recites the limitation "the portable computer" in lines 9-10. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5, 10, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over *Linksys WAP11 Instant Wireless Network Access Point – PracticallyNetworked.com* (by Tim Higgins, "http://practicallynetworked.com/review.asp?pid=400", relevant update: 9/1/2001, hereinafter "Higgins") in view of Tjalldin et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2004/0014497, hereinafter "Tjalldin").

With respect to claim 1, Higgins discloses a wireless connectivity apparatus for connecting a computing device of an individual to a wireless network, wherein the wireless connectivity apparatus connects the computing device to the wireless network without first

requiring modification to the hardware of the computing device (p. 3 "Access Point Client - This mode lets the WAP11 act as a Wireless client instead of an Access Point or bridge. Handy for connecting devices that only have an Ethernet interface"), the apparatus comprising:

- a first connector interface cable comprising a connector for connecting the apparatus to the computing device wherein the connector interface cable connects to a networking interface circuit of the computing device (In access point client mode the WAP11 was inherently meant to be connected to a computing device such as a laptop by an ethernet cable.) for receiving a first networking signal from the computing device (the signal sent from the computing device to the WAP11 along the ethernet cable), wherein the networking interface circuit is predisposed in the computing device (an ethernet port of the computing device); and
- a conversion module for receiving a first networking signal (the signal received by the WAP11's Ethernet interface when functioning in access point client mode) from a connector interface cable (the ethernet cable) and converting the first networking signal into a second networking signal (the wireless signal that the WAP11 uses in order to act as a wireless client).

Higgins does not disclose a wireless networking interface card in communication with the conversion module for interfacing the second networking signal with the wireless network, to thereby interface the computing device to the wireless network. Nonetheless, a wireless networking interface card in communication with a conversion module of a wireless connectivity apparatus for interfacing a networking signal with a wireless network is well known, as evidenced by Tjalldin. In a similar art, Tjalldin discloses a wireless networking

interface card (fig. 1 #5) in communication with a conversion module of a wireless connectivity apparatus (fig. 4 #410) for interfacing a networking signal with a wireless network (¶ 0019 lines 1-4). Given the teachings of Tjalldin it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the wireless connectivity apparatus taught by Higgins by making the apparatus comprise a wireless networking interface card in communication with the conversion module for interfacing the second networking signal with the wireless network, to thereby interface the computing device to the wireless network – obtaining the invention of claim 1. The motivation for doing so would have been so that the wireless network that the wireless connectivity apparatus connects to could be changed without replacing the wireless connectivity device. For example, a wireless networking card that supports the 802.11b standard could be replaced with a wireless networking card that supports Bluetooth.

With respect to claim 2, Higgins in view of Tjalldin teach the wireless connectivity apparatus applied to claim 1. Tjalldin further discloses a connector interface port for receiving the wireless networking interface card (fig. 1 #3), wherein the connector interface port receives a networking signal and sends the networking signal to the wireless networking interface card (inherent in ¶ 0014 lines 4-6).

With respect to claim 3, Higgins in view of Tjalldin teaches the wireless connectivity apparatus applied to claim 1. Tjalldin further discloses a power source connected to a conversion module (fig. 3 #6) for providing power to the conversion module (necessary in order for the wireless connectivity apparatus to function).

With respect to claims 4, Higgins in view of Tjalldin teaches the wireless connectivity apparatus applied to claim 2. Tjalldin further discloses a power source connected to a

conversion module and to the connector interface port (fig. 3 #6) for providing power to the conversion module and to the wireless networking interface card (necessary in order for the wireless connectivity apparatus to function).

With respect to claim 5, Higgins in view of Tjalldin teaches the wireless connectivity apparatus applied to claim 3. Tjalldin further discloses that the power source is a battery (¶ 0015 line 2) disposed within a housing of the apparatus (fig. 1 #1).

With respect to claim 6, Higgins in view of Tjalldin teaches the wireless connectivity apparatus applied to claim 1. Tjalldin further discloses that the wireless networking interface card comprises an industry standard specification for the wireless network (¶ 0016 lines 3-5).

With respect to claim 10, Higgins discloses a method of providing wireless network connectivity to a computer predisposed with a wired network, comprising:

- providing a wireless connectivity device, wherein the wireless connectivity device converts the networking signal of the wired network interface into a standardized second networking signal (p. 3 "Access Point Client - This mode lets the WAP11 act as a Wireless client instead of an Access Point or bridge. Handy for connecting devices that only have an Ethernet interface.", The wired network interface is the WAP11's ethernet port. The standardized second networking signal is the wireless signal that the WAP11 inherent must convert the networking signal of the wired network interface to in order to function as a wireless client in access point mode.); and
- connecting the wired network interface of the computer to the wireless connectivity device wherein the wireless connectivity device is in communication with a wireless network base station (inherent in p. 3 "Access Point Client - This mode lets the WAP11

act as a Wireless client instead of an Access Point or bridge. Handy for connecting devices that only have an Ethernet interface.").

Higgins does not disclose that the wireless connectivity device has a wireless networking card disposed within. Nonetheless, a wireless connectivity device with a wireless networking card disposed within is well known, as evidenced by Tjalldin. In a similar art, Tjalldin discloses a wireless connectivity device (fig. 1 #1) with a wireless networking card disposed within (fig. 1 # 5). Given the teachings of Tjalldin it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the wireless connectivity device taught by Higgins with a wireless networking card disposed within as taught by Tjalldin – obtaining the invention of claim 10. The motivation for doing so would have been so that the wireless network that the wireless connectivity device connects to could be changed without replacing the wireless connectivity device. For example, a wireless networking card that supports the 802.11b standard could be replaced with a wireless networking card that supports Bluetooth.

With respect to claim 11, Higgins discloses a method for providing wireless network connectivity on a mobile platform to a portable computing device on an individual, wherein the computing device includes a network interface circuit, the method comprising the steps of:

- providing an independent apparatus having a circuit for converting signals output from a network port of said computing device, from a first format into a second format suitable for use with an existing wireless network (inherent in p. 3 "Access Point Client - This mode lets the WAP11 act as a Wireless client instead of an Access Point or bridge. Handy for connecting devices that only have an Ethernet interface."); and

- using a cable to interface said apparatus to said network port of said computing device (inherent in p. 3 "Handy for connecting devices that only have an Ethernet interface.").

Higgins does not disclose using a network card operably associated with said independent apparatus for receiving said signals in said second format and transmitting said signals to said wireless network. Nonetheless, using a network card operably associated with an independent apparatus for receiving signals in a second format and transmitting said signals to a wireless network is well known, as evidenced by Tjalldin. In a similar art, Tjalldin discloses a network card (fig. 1 #5) operably associated with an independent apparatus (fig. 1 #1) for receiving signals in a format and transmitting said signals to a wireless network (¶ 0005). Given the teachings of Tjalldin it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art modify method the taught by Higgins by using a network card operably associated with said independent apparatus for receiving said signals in said second format and transmitting said signals to said wireless network as taught by Tjalldin – obtaining the invention of claim 11. The motivation for doing so would have been so that the second format could be changed without replacing the wireless connectivity device. For example, a wireless networking card that supports the 802.11b standard could be replaced with a wireless networking card that supports Bluetooth.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Higgins.

With respect to claim 7, Higgins discloses a method for providing wireless network connectivity on a mobile platform, wherein an individual on the mobile platform is able to

connect their computing device to the wireless network without modification to hardware within their computing devices, comprising the steps of:

- placing the computing device in connection to the wireless network wherein the computing device has disposed within its housing a network interface for connecting the computing device to a wired network (p. 3 "Access Point Client - This mode lets the WAP11 act as a Wireless client instead of an Access Point or bridge. Handy for connecting devices that only have an Ethernet interface.", the ethernet port of the WAP11); and
- connecting the network interface of the computing device to a wireless connectivity device wherein the wireless connectivity device connects the computing device to the wireless network (inherent in p. 3 "Access Point Client - This mode lets the WAP11 act as a Wireless client instead of an Access Point or bridge. Handy for connecting devices that only have an Ethernet interface.").

Higgins does not expressly disclose that the computing device is a portable computer. The examiner takes Official Notice that "connecting a portable computer to a wireless connectivity device" in a computer networking environment was well known in the art at the time the invention was made.

Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Higgins in view of Bork et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,633,932, hereinafter "Bork").

With respect to claim 8, Higgins discloses the method for providing wireless network connectivity on a mobile platform applied to claim 7. Higgins does not disclose providing power to the wireless connectivity device through a rechargeable battery cell disposed within

the wireless connectivity device. Nonetheless, providing power to a wireless connectivity device through a rechargeable battery cell disposed within the wireless connectivity device is well known, as evidenced by Bork. In a similar art, Bork discloses providing power to a wireless connectivity device through a rechargeable battery cell disposed within the wireless connectivity device (col. 4 lines 29-33). Given the teachings of Bork it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide power to the wireless connectivity device taught by Higgins through a rechargeable battery cell disposed within the wireless connectivity device – obtaining the invention of claim 8. The motivation for doing so would have been so that the wireless connectivity device does not require a power outlet in order to operate, making it more portable.

With respect to claim 9, Higgins in view of Bork teaches the method for providing wireless network connectivity on a mobile platform applied to claim 8. Bork further discloses providing power to a wireless connectivity device through a connection between a computing device and the wireless connectivity device wherein the connection is to a universal serial bus disposed in the computing device (col. 6 lines 38-42). Given the further teachings of Bork it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide power to the wireless connectivity device taught by Higgins in view of Bork by providing a second connection between the computing device and the wireless connectivity device wherein the second connection is to a universal serial bus disposed in the computing device as taught by Bork – obtaining the invention of claim 9. The motivation for doing so would have been to power the wireless connectivity device in the case that the wireless connectivity device runs out of battery power.

Conclusion

The following prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- *WAP11 - Instant Wireless Network Access Point*, 4/16/2001, "http://web.archive.org/web/20010416014021/www.linksys.com/products/product.asp?prid=157&grid=19"
- *USB to EtherNet Network Interface Adapters*, 3/3/2000, "http://web.archive.org/web/19990508062709/http://www.usbstuff.com/network.html"
- Beard et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2003/0011524)
- Tracy et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,979,757)
- Ballantyne et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,867,821)
- Hutchings et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,269,252)
- Vaid (U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2002/0091843)

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Philip S. Scuderi whose telephone number is (571) 272-5865. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenton B. Burgess can be reached on (703) 305-4792. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PSS

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